



# NEWS RELEASE

Office of the  
United States Attorney  
for the  
District of Nebraska  
**Deborah R. Gilg**

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February 1, 2010

United States Attorney Deborah R. Gilg and Region VII of the Environmental Protection Agency announce the following information for the attention of the media:

**Event Triggering this Release:**

Randall Stinnette, age 61 of Inland, Nebraska, entered a plea of guilty in the United States District Court for the District of Nebraska to a misdemeanor charge of Malicious Mischief to Government Property. The Honorable Thomas D. Thalken, Magistrate Judge, ordered Stinnette to pay a fine in the amount of \$5,000.00 and pay restitution in the sum of \$7,328.75.

In May 2008, the United States Army Corps of Engineers was advised that several trees located on Corps of Engineers property at the Harlan County Reservoir had been poisoned. These trees were adjacent to property owned by Stinnette. Stinnette is registered with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture as a certified applicator of Spike 20P. Spike 20P is a powerful, restricted use herbicide.

The trees that were poisoned obstructed a view of the reservoir from Stinnette's deck. The trees had holes drilled into them. Testing revealed the presence of Tebuthiuron, an ingredient of Spike 20P. Records reflected that Stinnette purchased Spike 20P in 2007. In pleading guilty Stinnette admitted he had knowingly damaged the trees.

**Name of Defendant:** Randall Stinnette

**AKA:**

**Age:** 61

**City of residence:** Inland, Nebraska

**Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty** (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): Malicious Mischief to Government Property; One year imprisonment, \$100,000.00 fine, or both imprisonment and fine; One year supervised release; \$25.00 special assessment.

**Specific Location of Alleged Crime:** Harlan County, Nebraska

**Location of Arrest:** N/A

**Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug:**

**Others Charged in Same Scheme:**

**Relevant Dates:**

**Date of Alleged Crime:** On and before May 2008

**Federal Arrest Date:** N/A

**Date Complaint Issued:**

**Indictment Returned Date:** Information filed December 21, 2009

**Initial Appearance Date:** January 29, 2010

**Plea or Trial and Date(s):** Pled on January 29, 2010

**Sentencing Date:** January 29, 2010

**Next Court Hearing Type and Date:** N/A

**Assigned Magistrate Judge:** The Honorable Thomas D. Thalken

**Held without Bond, or Released from Custody:** N/A

**In Continuous Custody Since:** N/A

**Assigned District Court Judge:** The Honorable Laurie Smith Camp

**Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release:** MPN